THE **SOUFAN** CENTER

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

AFTER THE FALLOUT FROM THE CAPITOL INSURRECTION ON JANUARY 6, A NEW REPORT FINDS THE THREAT POSED BY FAR-RIGHT VIOLENT EXTREMISM PERSISTS

The insurrection at the U.S. Capitol strengthened the online and offline far-right movement, including existing and emerging transnational connections.

LINK TO REPORT

(New York, NY – October 4, 2021) A new report by The Soufan Center, 'A Perfect Storm: Insurrection, Incitement, and the Violent Far-Right Movement' cautions that the Capitol Insurrection of January 6, 2021, has the potential to serve as a rallying cry or possible inspiration for far-right violent extremists on both sides of the Atlantic, as well as further across the globe. The report finds that linkages are materializing at the international level in three layers – ideological, financial, and operational – with each impacting the future direction and prospects of a transnational violent far-right movement, and examines the impact of the Capitol Insurrection on January 6, 2021. The report is the outcome of a project supported by the Airey Neave Trust, United Kingdom.

Practical responses urgently needed

Drawing on lessons from both the United States and the United Kingdom, as well as international efforts through the United Nations and other international platforms, the report notes that each country's respective far-right movements will be impacted by developments in the other. "The findings from our report underscore the importance of strengthening international partnerships as we respond to this threat," says Naureen Chowdhury Fink, Executive Director of The Soufan Center and one of the report authors. "These movements are learning and benefitting from each other's actions. We, likewise, need to be learning from states that are—or have—confronted this threat successfully."

Further, the report notes how the violent far-right movement has become increasingly connected both online and offline. "What we are seeing means that the United States' division between 'domestic' and 'international' terrorism can't be applied so neatly to this movement," explains Colin P. Clarke, also one of the report authors, along with Mollie Saltskog, who added, "A consequence is the creation of very divergent approaches and toolkits to address evolving terrorist threats."

The report concludes with a set of concrete, action-oriented recommendations for governments, international organizations, and civil society actors, stressing the importance of investing in additional research and analysis, developing national frameworks and assessing the impact, investing in addressing underlying drivers like racism, inequality and intolerance, and drawing on existing tools and frameworks developed through the United Nations and applying them to the threat. The report builds upon The Soufan Center's work since 2017, which has documented the growth of a global network of white supremacist extremists that stretches across North America, Europe, Australia, and beyond. The Soufan Center's 2019 report 'White Supremacy Extremism: The Transnational Rise of the Violent White

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<u>Supremacist Movement</u>,' focused on a range of white supremacy extremist groups with global reach and recent work on <u>strengthening international efforts to counter extreme right-wing violence and terrorism</u> examined measures to address their financing and narratives, supported by the Government of Germany.

ABOUT THE SOUFAN CENTER (TSC)

Based in New York, The Soufan Center is a non-partisan strategy center dedicated to increasing awareness of global security issues in the United States and around the world. Please contact Stephanie Foggett with any media inquiries or interview requests: stephanie.foggett@thesoufancenter.org.

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